

Housing Committee
Room 011, Capitol Building
Hartford, CT 06106
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Senator Edwin Gomes
Representative Kenneth Green
And Distinct Members of the Housing Committee

My name is Brenda White and I am a Tenant Commissioner and Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Seymour Housing Authority.

As a tenant and member of the Board I realize the importance of having the Pilot in place for the housing authorities in the State of Connecticut. If the pilot is not reinstated permanently, the housing authorities will be forced to raise rents which will create a substantial hardship for the tenants.

Many tenants of the Seymour Housing Authority are retired, on fixed incomes, or just having a hard time paying their bills for various reasons. I realize the State is going through hard times, but it needs to step up by reinstating the Pilot. If the Pilot does not get reinstated, The Seymour Housing Authority will be forced to raise the (base) rents \$45 a month to pay the taxes. We just implemented a \$20 a month rent increase. How can we increase the rents another \$45 a month without having a serious impact on the tenants who are having problems paying their bills? The path we took last year was to raise the rents \$65 a month in which \$45 was to cover the expense of paying the taxes. We did reduce the rents by \$45 because the Pilot was reinstated. A question was asked last year of a tenant if David Keyser, the Executive Director, went through the proper procedures of notifying the tenants of the rent increase. The answer given by the tenant was no, but I can truthfully say David does follow the procedures and the tenants were notified of the rent increase. The tenants were notified again of the current increase. Every tenant had the opportunity to attend a hearing or submit an comments in writing.

If the Pilot is not included in the budge, the tenants, young and old, will have a hard time surviving. Any type of increase will mean not being able to pay a bill, putting food on the table, or necessary medications. The housing authorities in Connecticut need all the help they can get, not only having the Pilot reinstated but they need help from the state to make necessary improvements. The state of Connecticut needs to take responsibility for their Public Housing stock.

The Housing Authorities and the residents of these Housing Authorities need to have the Pilot reinstated. Please help us

Thank you for your consideration,

Brenda A. White
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